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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 792
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Coach Joe Sims of
Celina High School, 2002 Tri-Lakes Conference
Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those athletes and coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is Joe Sims of Celina High School, who was recently honored as 2002 Tri-Lakes Conference Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, born on January 13, 1956, Coach Sims graduated from Hermitage Springs High School in 1973 and from Middle Tennessee State University in 1978; and

WHEREAS, this legendary educator began his coaching career in 1985 when he took the helm of the Celina Junior High boys and girls basketball teams; and

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WHEREAS, his skill and acumen was obvious from the start, and he was selected the following year as the Head Coach of the Celina Lady Bulldogs; he pulled double duty until 1991, also continuing to coach one of the junior high teams; and

WHEREAS, having just completed his sixteenth season with the Lady Bulldogs, Coach Sims has compiled a remarkable record of achievement; his outstanding overall record now stands at 331 wins and 188 losses; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, the Lady Bulldogs reached the State Tournament in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001, and 2002; in 1998 and 2001, they reached the Final Four, and in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2002, they were the State Runners-up; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Lady Bulldogs came within a game of reaching the State Tournament in their Sub-State years of 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1996; and

WHEREAS, among the many titles won by the Lady Bulldogs during Coach Sims's tenure are 1993, 1997, 2000, and 2002 Tri-Lakes Conference Championships, 1992, 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002 District Tournament Championships, and 1992, 1997, 1998, 2001, and 2002 Region Championships; and

WHEREAS, Coach Joe Sims is known throughout the basketball community of Tennessee and this nation as one of the sport's greatest teachers and innovators, and he has received numerous awards and honors for his expertise; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, 1993, 2000, and 2002, he was selected as the Tri-Lakes Conference Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 and 1997, he was honored as *Tennessean* Mid-State Class A Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, he was named *Nashville Banner* Mid-State Coach of the Year, inclusive of all classifications; and

WHEREAS, Joe Sims's coaching career is unsurpassed in Tennessee high school basketball history; and

WHEREAS, raw statistics, however impressive they may be, cannot come close to measuring his value as a coach; he is an exceptional motivator, and teaches the sport as few men can; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sims has carried out his duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character and with an inspirational flair unique only to him; he has earned the respect and admiration of his students and peers at Celina and throughout this State; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is committed to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community values and is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of more than twenty-seven years, Judy Brown; and

WHEREAS, this devoted family man is the proud father of two sons, Joseph Ryan and Adam Ross; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Joe Sims has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his students to reach their fullest potential; he exemplifies the unquestioned character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach Joe Sims of the Celina Lady Bulldogs for his honorable and astute service to the youth of this State and join with his family, friends, students, and fans in celebrating his most recent honor as 2002 Tri-Lakes Conference Coach of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.